

"Express Mail" mailing label number
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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
9378/185 (BHP00PUS01007)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)

10/530846

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/AU2003/001299

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
2 October 2003

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
2002 951 892 - 9 October 2002;
2002 951 895 - 9 October 2002;
2002 951 898 - 9 October 2002;
2002 951 957 - 9 October 2002;
2002 952 654 - 14 November 2002;
2002 952 681 - 14 November 2002

**TITLE OF INVENTION
SYSTEM AND METHOD(S) OF BLENDED MINE PLANNING, DESIGN AND PROCESSING**

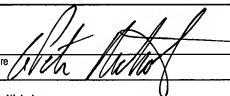
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
BHP BILLITON INNOVATION PTY LTD

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9), and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)) and/or amendments under Article 34.

Items 11 to 20 Below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 131fer.2 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information: Return Post card.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.50) 10/530846		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/AU2003/001299		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 9378/185 (BHP00PUS01007)																																																																		
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee.....\$300.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee.....\$200.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search Fee.....\$500.00 TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof. Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				CALCULATIONS																																																																		
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a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$6,850.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.																																																																						
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.																																																																						
Send All Correspondence to: Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione P.O. Box 10395 Chicago, IL 60610																																																																						
				Signature 																																																																		
				Name																																																																		
				G. Peter Nichols																																																																		
				Registration Number 34,401																																																																		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 12 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.